

# The Kingdom of Canada

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foreign affairs. . . . The House of Commons could no more venture to pass a Bill altering the Australian marriage laws, or the Canadian tariff, than the Dominion parliament could legislate on London tramways. The sovereignty is a figment. The States of the Empire stand on an equal footing, except that the government of one of them represents all the rest of the community of nations, and is gracefully permitted, in consequence, to undertake to pay for maritime defence."

"What is an Empire?"

"Here, then, we have the first of our Imperial anomalies. It is difficult to define what the realm is. We call it an Empire for convenience; but that imperium, the power of sovereignty, the right residing in some quarter to issue a command which must be obeyed, resides nowhere." The Saturday Review (25 July, 1908), had the following:—

"As an empire, how does the British nation throught the world now stand? Wolfe would have been amazed indeed could he have foreseen the present position. This 'empire,' which he made possible, has no Imperial army; there is no military defensive force drawn from every part of the 'empire,' and to which every part of the 'empire' must contribute either in men or money. There is no Imperial navy in the only true sense of the word, that the whole 'empire' helps to keep it up. There is no Imperial citizenship, for the King's subjects born in one part of the 'empire' may be, and are, forbidden entry into other parts of the 'empire,' not by decision of any authority representing the whole 'empire,' but by a local authority. To be a British subject does not carry with it even elementary rights against an authority that does not profess to represent the British Empire. In this 'empire' there is nothing to distinguish the commercial treatment of some parts of the 'empire' by other parts, from their treatment of a foreign country. In other words, these parts are to each other, from a commercial point of view, just foreign nations. Any part of the 'empire' may constitutionally give better treatment to a foreign country than to another part of the 'empire.' This 'empire' has no Imperial government. There is no authority which represents the 'empire' as a whole, no authority which has power to enforce its decisions in every part of the 'empire' alike."

"Where, then, Wolfe might well ask, does the empire come in? If we were honest, we should have to answer that it does not come in at all. The plain truth is that there is no British Empire. (i). In the strict sense, it obviously is not an empire; neither, as it seems to us, is it an empire in any real sense at all. And we shall get no further until we recognize this without blinking. This must be the starting point for future development. We shall lose nothing by looking facts in the face; by admitting the truth."

## Joseph Chamberlain on Empire

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has said (17 May, 1905):—

"Ours is an Empire, an anomalous Empire. It really is a collection of states which are not bound together by anything more than mere sentiment."

The Standard of Empire, whose mission is Imperialism, said (4 June, 1909):—

"Leaving theory and legal figments alone, an oversea state of the British dominions is an autonomous nation. . . . The King is King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Dominions beyond the sea. That is to say, in Australia, he is King of Australia; and in Canada, he is King of Canada. Mr. Sydney Low (a well-known English publicist), in a recent article in-

troduced his subject with the words:—

"The consideration of the relationship which should exist between the United Kingdom and the self-governing Dominions, now that the latter have become autonomous and practically sovereign states, is a matter which brooks no delay." (j).

The Imperialistic Montreal Star speaks of the countries "which we maladroitly call the British Empire." And Mr. Borden speaks of the Empire as in some respects "a mere disorganization" (k)—a term that is peculiarly well chosen, for until recently it was an organization, but, by our accession to self-government, it has become disorganized.

## A Sister State

If then we are not, in fact, part of the British Empire, what are we? Well, the reality having become divorced from the word, the only possible answer is a divided one, namely, that, as a matter of pure theory, we are still a colony—still part of the British Empire—still under the control of the British people; but, as a matter of fact and reality, we are a sister-state of the United Kingdom, and as such a Kingdom as is she herself. We are, in fact, what Sir John A. Macdonald wished us in name to be—"The Kingdom of Canada." (l). And if, for convenience, you want a phrase which will include all the Kingdoms and colonies, do not say "the British Empire," for it is derogatory to us, but "the King's dominions," which is correct and unobjectionable.

(i) The writer meant, no doubt, that there was no British Empire so far as the self-governing dominions were concerned. The United Kingdom has still India and other places as her Empire.

(j) Fortnightly, Dec. 1913, p. 13.  
(k) Hansard, 1910, p. 1747.  
(l) Pope: "Sir John Macdonald," vol. I, p. 313.

## Mothers' Experiences

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many objects in nature can you find of pure red? How many having the darker shades and lighter tints of pure red? Taking all parts of a fruit, what colors are found? Do we know the colors in new potatoes, in a field of cabbages? Have we ever noticed how really beautiful the scales of many fish are? Have we ever noticed how many colors a feather has?

A little girl spent many interested hours one spring and summer trying to find pure green color among leaves. She found the blue green—and green blue—yellow green and green yellow, she found in her search for pure green more color and beauty than she could ever tell or in fact know. She said one day, "There is no such thing as kind of green, or kind of blue, or kind of anything, is there? Everything has a name that belongs to it." She was struggling toward accuracy, and she had something to build upon.

A group of boys who had been sorting leaves had a discussion because one of the number gave it as his opinion that even leaves that came from the very same tree are not exactly alike. The boy's grandfather was called upon to settle the question, which he did by remarking that he had often wondered about that same matter, and he offered to give any boy a quarter for each two leaves that could be found to be exactly alike. Interest ran high for many weeks. Rediscoveries were made, and, incidentally, the qualities, sterling and otherwise, of the boys were tested.

During the fall and winter the same group of boys gave much of their time out of school hours to the study of stones.

They were in no danger of falling into mischief; they were safeguarded by a right interest. They were learning to see.

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